



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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Information Forums Now Scheduled Regarding the Provider Rate Rebase July 25, 2008

Background

As was announced on July 11th, the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities has completed the first Five Year Rate Rebase Study conducted for the qualified vendor system (contracted providers and independent providers).

Qualified vendors are the agencies that provide most of the home and community based services in Arizona to people with developmental disabilities and their families. The first qualified vendor rates were established five years ago and, by statute, the rates must be reviewed and updated every five years. This is called a rate rebase. In order to accomplish the task, the Division involved consumers and their families, Division staff, the provider community and multiple consultants.

The Division contracted with Burns and Associates, Mercer Government Human Services Consultant and Navigant Consulting to conduct the Five Year Rate Rebase Study. These three firms collaboratively developed the proposed rebase rates in the study.

Public Information Forums are now Scheduled!

The purpose of the following forums is to communicate the rate rebasing efforts and to get information from the provider community, the people we serve and their families, and from other interested stakeholders. The forums are divided into two parts on the same day. The afternoon sessions are targeted for the provider community and those areas that may be of most interest to agencies. The evening forums are targeted for consumers, families and other community stakeholders. All are welcomed.

Northern Arizona Forums

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Location: Little America Hotel
2515 E. Butler Ave
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Times: Provider Forum 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Family & Community Forum 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Southern Arizona Forums

Date: Thursday, August 7, 2008

Location: Tucson Convention Center
260 South Church Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85701

Times: Provider Forum 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Family & Community Forum 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Central Arizona Forums

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Location: Arizona State University – West
La Sala Ballroom
4701 Thunderbird Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85069

Times: Provider Forum 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Family & Community Forum 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Additional Information

Materials are posted to <http://www.azdes.gov/ddd>

The materials include:

- ◆ Rate Rebase Book which contains an overview of the project, an explanation of the changes and an analysis of the proposed rate rebase models.
- ◆ Provider Cost Survey Final Report which contains a detailed analysis and raw data elements submitted by providers

If you are not able to attend an information session, we still want to hear from you. Public comments are encouraged and are being taken until August 31, 2008 via email to DDDBusinessOPS@azdes.gov.

Once public comment has been received, considered and analyzed, the new benchmark rates will be established. A long range implementation strategy needs to be developed to establish the rates to be used based on funding requirements and availability. Due to funding constraints and legislative intent, there will be not changes to rates from July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009.

Thank you again for your participation and review. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, comments and ideas.